



Air assault troops back on the streets, patrolling

Story and photo by
Spc. James P. Hunter
MNC-I PAO

September 2005 brought the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, into Taji. Their mission: to act as a quick response force, defeat the insurgency and eliminate enemy positions.

Staff Sgt. Dean Scott, truck commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 320th FAB, said they had to be the hunter not the hunted. They had to be very aggressive, keeping a constant presence on the streets.

Only three weeks into their deployment, they were hit with an improvised explosive device.

One thing they could always expect was the unexpected, he said.

"One day you would see the Iraqi people running up to your vehicles, being friendly," he said. "The next day everyone would be running away because something was about to happen."

Constantly fighting with the enemy, once, they targeted a house on the western edge of Taji known for shooting rockets at helicopters and Coalition positions, Scott said. They air assaulted in, set up position and nabbed 15-20 insurgents.

"First thing I wanted to do was identify our position once we got off the bird," he said. "It was pitch black; I couldn't see a thing."

His reference point was a barn. They quickly set up their position, knowing their time was limited. The assault force moved

in, they collapsed their position and moved toward the landing zone.

During their time in Taji, the 1st Bn., 320th FAB, lost many Soldiers. One Soldier was one too many.

Scott said they were becoming battle fatigued, constantly on patrols, maintaining their presence in the insurgent havens.

After only two months in country, they left Taji for Camp Victory to take on a new mission of providing security for the



A Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, pulls security from his gunner position during a night patrol in the Iraqi Family Village in Baghdad.

palace.

"The good thing was they got their needed rest," Scott said. "The bad thing was, we got here and lost our edge."

Capt. Chris Burton, executive officer, HHB, 1-320th FAB, felt their mission was pretty dull and not very "sexy," but at the same time, if anyone was going to secure the palace, he would want his guys to.

Their mission was successful, and

after six months their mission changed once again. They took on the mission of patrolling Al Farat and the Iraqi Family Village in Baghdad.

When HHB initially took over the palace security, Rock Hard platoon, Battery A, 1st Bn., 320th FAB, patrolled these areas, which is a true testament to them because of the amount of people Rock Hard lost in Taji, Burton said.

During Saddam's regime, the IFV was used as a training ground for Saddam's Soldiers. In 2003, when U.S. Soldiers swept through the area, "squatters" came into the area.

The Iraqis in the community wanted to be recognized by the Iraqi government, said Burton. Once insurgents caught wind of their wants, they moved into the area, setting off sectarian violence.

Nearly 40 people a week are killed due to sectarian violence, Burton said.

Once the sectarian violence picked up, commanders wanted people pushed into the sector to help the Iraqi government gain control of the area, he said. Now four platoons patrol the area.

With a little over a month left in country, Scott believes with a massive force on the ground, it will enable the next group to come into the area of operation and be successful.

But for the time being, it's necessary to keep a constant presence on the ground to

see PATROL, page 4

In today's Victory Times:

Page 2: Chaplain's Corner,
Weather

Page 3: Elwya Children's
Hospital

Page 5: Camp Victory operating
hours

Page 4: This Week in Military
Histroy

Chaplain's corner

Reunion: Phase Two

Still going home on R&R? It is going to be just magnificent! In my last Chaplain Corner we considered Phase One: Anticipation. As promised, let's consider the second phase of your reunion – the homecoming.

You feel the brakes being applied as you land and begin to taxi to the terminal. You breath a big sigh of relief as you stare out the window. You are home. Anticipation is transforming into actualization – reunion; the homecoming. No doubt about it, this is an emotional time. It is emotional for everyone.

The minute you embrace your family and friends, everyone will be trying to get your attention. Be mindful of this and acknowledge everyone there and let them know how glad you are they came to meet you. Everyone will be trying to get in synch with you and expect you to receive their "informational download." With emotions running high, it is easy for feelings to be hurt if you are not careful. Go ahead, give everyone a big hug and a few personal words of thankfulness for their presence on this special day.

You may find a that one of your strongest needs will be your desire to sleep and rest a few days before you rush out to pack as much as you possibly can into your R&R. Be careful. Choose realistic expectations for your special time with family and friends. Look at your mental checklist of all the things you want to achieve – prioritize it and perhaps take the first two or three. Remember, it is the quality activities not the quantity that will make a memorable R&R.

All of us will return to different situations back home. Let's look at some common coping strategies that have proven themselves deployment after deployment. First,



CH (MAJ) Charles M. Herring
Religious Support Operations
MNC-I Chaplain Office

communication. Take time to really talk and listen to one another. As a means to remove any misunderstandings, restate what you heard as best you can when you talk with family and friends. What did you "hear" them saying as they share with you? This strategy will eliminate many misunderstandings.

Second, changed roles. Roles have changed while you were gone. Your family and friends stepped up to fill the void left by your mobilization and absence. They courageously learned new skills – balancing the checkbook, vehicle maintenance and many

more. Acknowledge their contributions and be very deliberate about doing things that will strengthen your relationships.

Third, learn new skills. There may be skills that your family and friends learned while you were gone – schools and training programs continued during your absence. You may have a new graduate or two to congratulate. Use this opportunity to learn a little something new or at least begin to explore those things that are new to you.

Fourth, arrange for some quiet time. Sit down with your family and friends to discuss the adjustments and changes you have seen. Arrange for some personal quiet time with each one. Let them know how special they are and how proud you are of their accomplishments and continued support.

Fifth, stay positive. Minimize any criticism. It was very difficult while you were gone, and they may have made some tough decisions under difficult circumstances. Thank them for doing their very best.

Continuing to look at reunion, we will explore children's issues in our next article.

VISIT
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS - IRAQ
and
VICTORY TIMES
ON THE WEB!

Victory Times
third year anniversary

WWW.MNCI.CENTCOM.MIL

Camp Victory Three-day Forecast

Wednesday



Sunny
High: 118 F
Low: 91 F

Thursday



Sunny
High: 118 F
Low: 91 F

Friday



Sunny
High: 116 F
Low: 90 F

Elwya Children's Hospital



An elder Iraqi women sits with her newborn while U.S. troops passed out gifts at the Elwya Children's Hospital.



A young Iraqi girl receives a backpack from 49th MP Soldiers.

Story and photos by
Spc. Brian James Anderson
 MNC-I PAO



Sgt. Deborah M. Patrick, administration, 49th Military Police Brigade, pulls backpacks from a humvee.

Children at the Elwya Children's Hospital, Baghdad, received school supplies from the 49th Military Police Brigade Thursday.

The MP's, with the assistance of the Iraqi Police, Baghdad Police Headquarters, handed out 40 backpacks with various supplies and gifts to the children at the hospital.


Some of the supplies included in the packages were pencils, notebooks, coloring books, crayons, candy and chalk.

The supplies were donated to the 49th MP's by various supporters and organizations in the United States and units stationed here.

Sgt. Deborah M. Patrick, administration, 49th Military Police Brigade, helped organize the event with the assistance of a friend back home, Donna Ward.

While at the children's hospital, the mothers with newborns and small kids were very thankful and somewhat overwhelmed, said Patrick.

"As Coalition Forces, we are helping the IP's make a difference in their community by giving (their citizens) things such as backpacks, soccer balls, school supplies. We want the Iraqi face on things, not the Coalition Forces face," Patrick said. "We want to promote good will and a strong bond with the Iraqi Police and Coalition Forces. By doing this small thing, the Iraqi Police become easier to approach and the community is less apt to allow the insurgents to take over their community."

Army Human Resource Command

JULY 27-30

OPMD VISIT

As of 24-Jul-06
 ACTO: MAJ Carrie V. Crawford, DSN 822-2441




SPEARHEAD

CONFERENCE ROOM

JULY 28
2 pm - 5 pm

OPMD BRIEF TO ALL ARMY OFFICERS

VTC TO ALL MSCs
(2 - 3 pm)

As of 24-Jul-06
 ACTO: MAJ Carrie V. Crawford, DSN 822-2441

This Week in Military History

with Lt. Tom Lewis, Australian Forces

July is well known in WWI history for the Battle of the Somme. This assault began on 1 July 1916, but technically continued for some months. The attack was an attempt to break the German lines, particularly at Verdun, France. The first day was the bloodiest - the casualties sustained by the British army alone in the opening day of the Battle of Somme numbered nearly 60,000, of which nearly 20,000 were fatal. By the time the battle had concluded, there were over a million casualties.

The Somme is often held up as an example of the foolishness of commanders in WWI, and by now the scenario of "going over the top" has almost become a movie cliché, showing the folly of officers who were armed with only a pistol, while brave troops labored forward encumbered by a vast heap of equipment. In fact, assaults such as this were preceded by a bombardment, which was doubly supposed to cut the enemy's wire defenses and keep their heads down to prevent counter-fire. Tactical infantry maneuver such as flanking attacks were impossible in battles such as the Somme - the enemy's line was scores of miles long.

Any massed assault hoped to punch through and exploit the penetration, but both sides' defenses were so deep that this became impossible, although many lives were expended finding this out. General officers hoped to make a difference by simply pouring in more force - after all, such tactics had worked in the past. But wire entanglements, effective depth of trench defenses, and modern rifles and machine guns made a situation like the Somme a stalemate. The generals, unfortunately, had to find this out the hard way.

Did you know...

Being a warrior and wanting to be famous makes you no different to previous warriors? If you were a knight in Europe around the time of the Crusades and beyond you could immortalise yourself, for a price, with a brass plate depicting your proud and martial appearance, dressed in your armor, shield and sword. This was installed on the top of your tomb to impress onlookers.

Brasses were expensive, although cheaper than a statue, but if you, or your family, couldn't afford a full-length life-size plate of metal, you could go for a half or third-size brass. Of course, the metalwork was done while you were alive, and would take a few visits to the brass-maker, or he could visit you at a local jousting match to sketch you in your armor. From the 8,000 or so brasses scattered through Britain, where the practice was most popular from 1250-1650, military historians have been able to get some good insights into the armor and weapons of the period, in these metal snapshots of the past.

If you're visiting a historical cathedral in Britain, you can often apply to an attached centre or shop to make your own brass rubbing. Equipped with waxed paper, a suitable graphite-equipped heelball, and after paying a fee, you can easily make your own brass rubbing, rather in the same way, you can generate the appearance of a coin through rubbing a pencil across paper on top of it. Have your paper framed, and you have a snapshot of the past. These days, you have to impress a Stars and Stripes photographer for the same result!

U.S. Citizenship Workshop – July 27

Open to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who wish to become U.S. Citizens

Requirements:

- 1.) Green Card (best to have a copy, at minimum need Alien Registration Number & date you became Permanent Resident).
- 2.) Knowledge of your former addresses, employment history, and spouse/children information (if applicable).
- 3.) A copy of your enlistment contract (form number's 4/1 and 4/2) and all available documents pertaining to any previous law violations.
- 4.) Bring required forms with you to the workshop. The only form that must be filled out is N-426. You may print the forms out by logging on to www.uscis.gov. The forms required are: N400, N426 and G325B.
- 5.) Bring \$3 for obtaining photo identification.

****This is only for those soldiers who have NEVER submitted an application for citizenship. If inquiring about an existing application, please stop by the Legal Assistance Office during normal business hours (9 am – 6 pm).****

****Limited seating is available therefore, all soldiers will be required to go through their unit First Sergeant or equivalent. Unit first sergeants will then contact MNC-I, Client Services office to reserve their Soldiers' seats. ****

****The workshop will take place on Camp Victory – South, Building 94 @ 9 am. If you are late, you will not be permitted to take part in the immigration workshop****

Any questions please contact the MNC-I, Client Services Office, located in Building # 133, DSN 822-2864 or email us at MNC-IClient@iraq.centcom.mil

PATROL

slow down the violence among Sunni's and Shiites', he said.

"We want to talk to people, see if there are any new people moving into the area, trying to form a militia against Coalition Forces," Scott said. "The only way to do this is keep 24-hour presence."

Burton said they need to interact with the people within the communities, especially the counsels to help them better their communities and ensure they have basic necessities to survive.

Burton said the Iraqi communities are greatly benefiting from Coalition troops, and it is their responsibility to rid the violence and ensure the Iraqis safety, helping reinforce the faith in the Iraqi people.

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Faces of Freedom
The children of Iraq are important to the future and fate of this country.

Do you have any photo's of the Iraqi children?

If so, send them to james.hunter@iraq.centcom.mil to have them published in the Victory Times.

Please provide information of who, what, when and where.




GT Improvement Course

Is your GT score under 110 and holding you back?
Want to improve your GT score ASAP?

Where: Camp Victory Education Center, Building 27B

When: Monday - Friday

Start: August 7

Time: 9 am - 3 pm

Graduate: August 25

ASVAB: August 26-27

POC: educationcenter@iraq.centcom.mil

822-4725

822-4640

The 440TH Signal Battalion Presents...

WHAT: A 10K
WHEN: September 2
WHERE: Area 51 MWR
(By the post office)

Registration begins @ 0430

Race begins promptly @ 0530

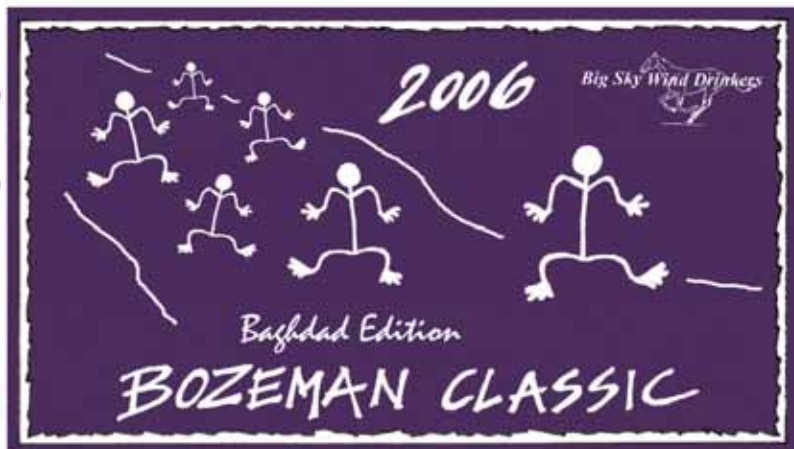
T-Shirts for the first 500 to register and finish
(to be given upon completion of the race)

To register or for more info contact:

SSG COBLE
cassidy.coble@iraq.centcom.mil
822-3832

or
SGT Johns
bothyrn.johns@iraq.centcom.mil
822-2804

For registration email: full name, rank, unit, branch of service, gender, age, and shirt size.



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&
THE COIN MAKER

Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to jason.baker@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Worship Opportunities

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Friday:
Jumu'ah (Islamic Prayer) 1300

Sunday:
Traditional Protestant Service 0700 and 0845
Roman Catholic Confession 1000
Roman Catholic Mass 1030
Gospel Protestant Service 1200
Latter Day Saints Service 1400
Episcopal/Lutheran Service 1600
Contemporary Protestant Service 1800

Saturday:
7th Day Adventist Service 1100
Roman Catholic Mass 2000

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Monday - Friday
Roman Catholic Service 1600

Friday:
Jewish Service 1830

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
MNC-I Command Info Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
MNC-I Production Chief: Staff Sgt. Jason B. Baker
Victory Times Staff writers/ photographers: Spc. Brian James Anderson,
Spc. Curt Squires, Spc. James P. Hunter, Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

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